



H.R. 1413 – To direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to address vulnerabilities in aviation security by carrying out a pilot program to screen airport workers with access to secure and sterile areas of airports

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1413 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY) on March 8, 2007. The House Homeland Security Committee approved the bill, as amended, by voice vote, on August 1, 2007.

H.R. 1413 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 11, 2007.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1413 requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to establish pilot programs to screen all airport workers at 7 airports. The pilot programs would last for 6 months and must be initiated within 120 days of enactment of the bill.

Following the pilot programs, TSA must report to Congress with an assessment of the effectiveness and costs of screening all workers as well as the vulnerabilities regarding badge and uniform control. The assessment must also include an estimate of the infrastructure and personnel needed to implement a screening program at all commercial airports.

BACKGROUND

Under current practice, TSA utilizes roving patrols and temporary checkpoints to randomly screen airport employees working inside the secure area of the airport. There are approximately 900,000 airport workers with access to secure areas of U.S. airports. TSA does a background check against criminal records and the terrorist watch list for employees prior to granting them airport access credentials.

In March 2007, two airport workers were arrested and charged with bringing drugs and guns onto a plane traveling between Puerto Rico and Orlando, Florida.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates “that implementing H.R. 1413 would cost \$10 million over the 2008-2009 period” and would have no affect on direct spending or revenues. [CBO Estimate: H.R. 1413](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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